

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

TOP SECRET FOR

INFORMATION FROM:

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO RECORDS: CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY - China

SUBJECT Political (Editorial)

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

WHERE PUBLISHED Hong Kong

DATE PUBLISHED 9 Dec 1949

LANGUAGE Chinese

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949

DATE DIST. 2 Feb 1950

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U.S.C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Wen-hui Pao.

DISCUSSES ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS

On 2 December 1949, at the fourth session of the Central People's Government Council, a resolution was passed approving the establishment of five regional administrative districts presided over by military and political councils. This plan calls for an East China District comprising Shantung, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Chekiang, Fukien, and Taiwan; a South and Central China District consisting of Honan, Hupeh, Kiangsi, Hunan, Kwangtung, and Kwangsi; a Northwest District of Shensi, Kansu, Tsinghai, Ningxia and Sinkiang; a Southwest District of Szechwan, Kweichow, Yunnan and Sikang; and a Suiyuan District which includes Suiyuan Province and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

As for the remainder of China, the Northeast District retains its present status; the North China District, due to its proximity to the national capital, has been abolished and its component parts, Hopei, Shansi, Pingyuan, and Chahar provinces and the cities of Pei-p'ing and T'ien-ching, have been placed under the direct control of the Central People's government. The Central Plains District Provisional People's government has been incorporated into the South and Central China District. China is thus divided into six large administrative districts and the autonomous region of Tibet. Each will exercise separate control over military and political matters in its local government structure.

This move represents one of the most creative measures ever taken in Chinese history. It represents an enormous change in China's administrative apparatus, introducing a new level of local government, placed above provinces and municipalities. According to Article XII of regulations governing the organization of provincial all-circles people's delegates assemblies, promulgated by the Central People's Government Council on 2 December 1949, the same regulations were made applicable to all-circles assemblies for the regional administrative districts. This indicates that the districts occupy the same status as provinces, a high level of local government which is not merely a creature of the central government. In a Government Council meeting Mao Tse-tung also pointed out the necessity

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

of establishing a new level of strong local government in view of the great size of the country. He indicated also that the new system would be a compromise between the need for unity and the interests of the various regions, in which there would be a beneficial division of responsibilities between the central government and local governments.

Historically, the need for large governmental subdivisions was felt as early as the Ch'ing Dynasty, and each succeeding dynasty established its own system. Even after the establishment of provinces in the Ming and Ch'ing, dynasties, governor-generalships were still formed to direct the military and political affairs of two or more provinces. A similar situation existed from 1911 until the period of KMT control, and also in the liberated areas of the recent past. The present scheme, although differing in nature and motivation from previous systems, is still based on the need for efficiency in administering a large area.

Because of the pressure of industrial development, the modern system of local government in all countries, with the exception of federated states and very small countries, has followed a pattern of gradual change from small administrative districts to larger ones, as in the case of France. This trend toward larger districts was the result of centralization of authority, occurring after industrial expansion in each country, and was not due to local division of power. This tendency cannot be avoided in New China because New China is a country now in a transitional period between new democracy and socialism. Its industrial economy is developing daily, so that any trend toward centralization of power through the creation of large administrative divisions is natural, necessary, and rational.

At the same time, the present division of China into provinces is a legacy from the past. From the standpoint of modern economic geography, there are many sectors where such a system is not practical and in the course of current economic developments all kinds of difficulties are bound to arise. Planned economic reconstruction can be realized only by establishing larger administrative districts of two or more provinces.

- E N D -

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL